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NEWS

What you need to know to run for office in 2025, nomination papers available

NELL ESCOBAR COAKLEY | STAFF WRITER

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Hey, Winchester! Nomination papers are now available for the 2025 townwide election, scheduled for March 22. FILE PHOTO

Is it too soon to think about the March 22 town election? It might
some, but nomination papers for public office are now available a

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Winchester Town Hall — and time is ticking to return them.

Town Clerk MaryEllen Marshall recently put out an announcement telling Winchester residents just how to go about running for office, if they're interested.

It's an easier process than you might imagine to become a candidate.

First, you have to be a registered voter at your Winchester address. Second, you have to appear in person at Town Hall on or before 5 p.m. on Jan. 29 to register as an official candidate.

Then circulate your nomination papers and gather 50 valid signatures from anyone in town who is a registered voter or just 10 valid signatures from Town Meeting members.

Make sure to return your signed nomination papers on or before 5 p.m. on Jan. 31 "by postmark USPS mail, or drop box, to the Town Clerk's Office for approval."

And of course, decide whether or not you will establish a Candidate Committee to promote your election campaign.

Lastly, get out there and campaign!

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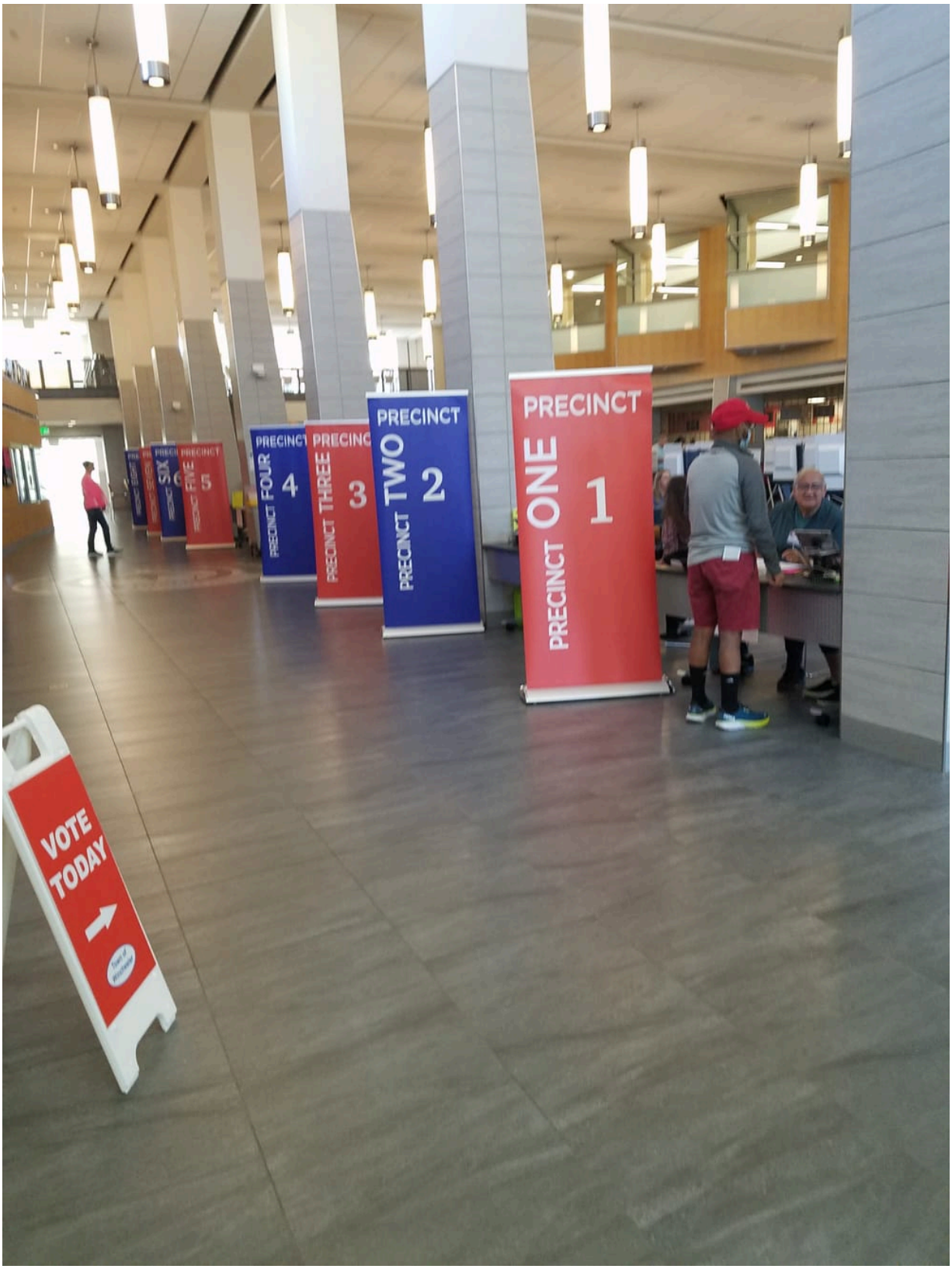

The polls will be open for the townwide election on March 22, 2025. WINCHESTER NEWS STAFF PHOTO/NELL ESCOBAR COAKLEY

Still anxious? Marshall can help.

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"You can simply stop by the Town Clerk's Office to fill out the paperwork to become a candidate for election," Marshall said, in her announcement. "The Town Clerk's staff will walk you through the process and send you home with your packet of educational material on becoming a candidate for local office."

Have you made a decision? Here's what you need to know about the following office on the ballot for March 22:

• Moderator (1 seat) — 1-year term

• Select Board (2 seats) — 3-year term

• Board of Assessor (1 seat) — 3-year term

• Board of Health (1 seat) — 3-year term

• Planning Board (1 seat) — 3-year term

• School Committee (2 seats) — 3-year term

• Board of Library Trustees (2 seats) — 3-year term

• Housing Authority (1 seat) — 5-year term.

In addition, in each of the town's eight precincts, eight 3-year Town Meeting member terms will be on the ballot for a total of 64 seats. There is one seat for a two-year term for Precinct 5 due to a resignation.

Incumbent Town Meeting members are not required to obtain signatures. The Town Clerk's staff mailed out letters to incumbents on Dec. 16, 2024 with instructions if they would like to appear on the ballot.

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Have a story idea? Email editor@WinchesterNews.org.

The last day to take out nomination papers for any office is 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 29. Signed nomination papers must be submitted to the Town Clerk's Office for certification no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 31, 2025.

"If you are interested in running for office, or if you are interested to see who may be running, contact the Town Clerk's Office at 781-721-7130 or email us at townclerk@winchester.us if you have questions," Marshall said.

Election Calendar

What do you need to know about upcoming town elections? Here are some important dates to remember:

• Jan. 21 — Year-end Campaign Finance Reports due, 5 p.m. (Previous townwide candidates and ballot question committees with available funds) (MGL 55§18)

• Jan. 24 — Last day for incumbent Town Meeting members to become a candidate for re-election, by giving written notice to the Town Clerk, 5 p.m. (MGL 53§10); Home Rule Charter Article 2 Section 2-3(b)

• Jan. 29 — Last day to obtain nomination papers, 5 p.m. (MGL 53§9A)

• Jan. 31 — Last day for candidate to submit nomination papers to Registrar of Voters for certification, 5 p.m. (MGL 53§7)

• Feb. 14 — Last day for Registrar of Voters to submit completed nomination papers to the Town Clerk, 12 noon

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• Feb. 19 — Last day to object to or withdraw from candidacy, 5 p.m. (MGL 55B§7)

• Feb. 20 — Ballot position drawing at Town Clerk's Office, 4 p.m. (Charter 7-11(b))

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Thinking about running for public office in Winchester? Nomination papers are now available at Town Hall. Just check in with the Town Clerk! WINCHESTER NEWS FILE PHOTO

• Feb. 21 — Ballot goes to the printer

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• March 12 — Deadline to register to vote

• March 14 — Campaign Finance Report due (townwide candidates who have formed a candidate committee for the town election), 12 noon (MGL 55§18)

• March 14 — Last day to post the Annual Town Election Warrant

• March 17 — Deadline to apply for Vote by Mail ballot, 5 p.m.

• March 21 — Deadline to apply for Absentee Ballot, 12 noon (MGL 54§89)

• March 22 — ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION (Code of By-Laws 3:1) Polls open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. (Code of By-laws 3§2)

• April 22 — Campaign Finance Reports due (townwide candidates), 5 p.m. (MGL 55§18)

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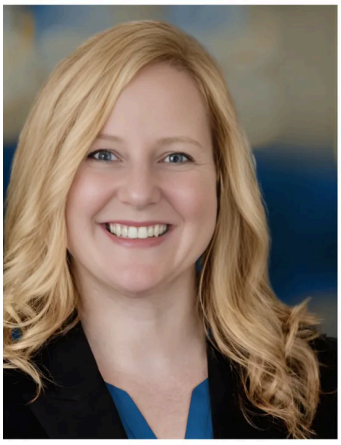

NEWS

Winchester School Committee candidates bring contrasting backgrounds to Thursday forum

Two candidates for Winchester's School Committee will face voters at a forum as the district navigates a new literacy curriculum, budget pressures and questions about student mental health. Heather von Mering and John Bellaire are competing for an open seat on the School Committee, which oversees a budget von

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March 4, 2026

NEWS

Rep. Michael Day helps House colleagues pass sweeping energy affordability bill

The following was submitted by the Office of Rep. Michael S. Day: Rep. Michael S. Day and his colleagues in the House of Representatives recently passed energy affordability legislation that would result in over $9 billion in savings for utility ratepayers over the next 10 years. The bill maintains critical

March 4, 2026

NEWS

Winchester gun owners face new training rules starting April 2

Public safety data How Winchester compares on firearms licenses in comparable Massachusetts communities Active licenses as of Jan. 25, 2025 — Source: Massachusetts Criminal History Systems Board License to carry firearms Firearms identification card Winchester and Marblehead are the focus communities. Peers selected based on comparable population size, demographics and suburban

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NEWS

Sen. Jason Lewis, Mass. Senate strengthen fair housing protections for renters, buyers

The following was submitted by the Office of Sen. Jason Lewis: State Sen. Jason Lewis joined his colleagues in the Massachusetts Senate to pass legislation that protects residents from discrimination in the housing market as the Trump administration abandons its enforcement of the federal Fair Housing Act. Illegal discrimination continues

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Celebrate Women's History Month with Girls Leading Change

The following was submitted by the Network for Social Justice: To mark Women's History Month and International Women's Day in 2026, the Network for Social Justice is collaborating with club leaders from Winchester High School and members of the Community Health team from La Colaborativa in Chelsea and

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FEATURES

'Chicago: Teen Edition' dances onto the Winchester High School

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stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents “Chicago: Teen Edition,” a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. This iconic production is set in the 1920s. Performances will take place on March 13 and 14

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS
March 4, 2026

Welcome Here’

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

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